



MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 09, 2015

TO: Local Health Departments, IDPH Regional Health Offices,
Health Care Providers

FROM: Communicable Disease Control Section

SUBJECT: Surveillance for Lyme Disease and Other Tick-borne Pathogens

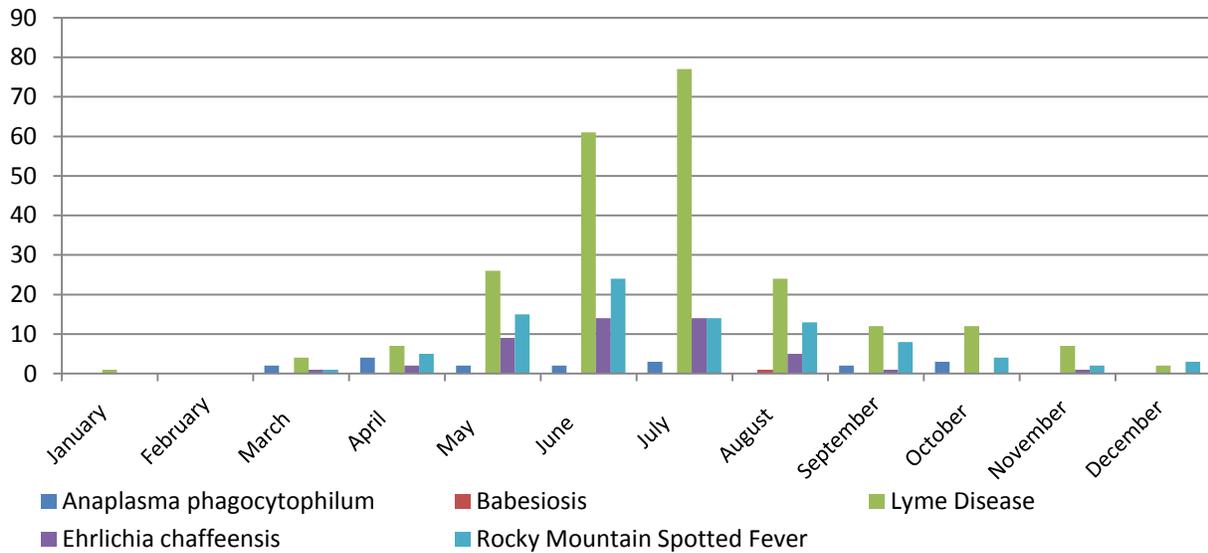
In Illinois, human tick-borne diseases (including Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever) are reportable to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) within seven days. All suspect and confirmed cases should be reported through the Illinois National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS) or the local health department (LHD). Completeness of reporting, including laboratory reports, travel history with dates of departure and return, exposure history, symptoms and symptom onset, along with patient demographics are important elements in tracking tick-borne diseases.

Due to lack of resources, IDPH does not test ticks for Lyme disease spirochetes or other tick-borne pathogens. However, they are able to *identify* ticks by species free of charge to assist local health departments in identifying which species a person has been exposed to. The [IDPH Arthropod Specimen Identification Form](#) must be completed and submitted to the IDPH Division of Environmental Health.

In Illinois, peak season for the 3 tick species that most frequently bite humans is May through the end of July. These species include the American dog tick, the lone star tick and deer/blacklegged tick. Adult deer ticks may also be active in the fall. Images of these 3 tick species may be found at: [http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/life_cycle_and_hosts.html].

The most common diseases transmitted to humans from ticks in Illinois include Lyme disease, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Less common tickborne diseases that have been reported in Illinois include Anaplasmosis, Babeosis, and Ehrlichiosis. Below is a graph showing the peak months for tickborne disease activity in Illinois for 2014.

Tick-borne Diseases in Illinois, 2014



For additional information on tick-borne diseases, including prevention of tick bites, transmission, tick removal, signs and symptoms, diagnosis and treatment, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>, and <http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/pccommonticks.htm>.

For inquiries about human tick-borne infections, reporting and lab testing, please contact IDPH's Communicable Disease Control Section at 217-782-2016. For additional questions regarding environmental testing and surveillance, please call IDPH's Division of Environmental Health at 217-782-5830.